Programme	Allocation	Central Releases	No. of persons likely to be Benefited
	6686.18		Targets of 144.36 lakh Man-days has been fixed
JRY		4011.71	
EAS		2488.00	Employment of 6.95 lakh mandays generated*

* No. of pensbn can not be ascertained. However a total No. of 1.21 lakh persons have been registered upto May, 98.

Constitution of State Finance Commissions

4702. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to stete:

(•) the names of the States where the icports of State Finance Commissions oenttituted under 73rd Amendment of OUT Constitution have been implemented;

(b) the number of States where State Finance Commissions' reports have been tubmitted to the State Governments; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the 73rd Constitution Amend-
ment Act in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of their State FiawMe Commissions and have begun impiementing the same.

(b) 16 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Aman, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pimiesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted tbeir reports to their respective State Governments.

(c) In terms of the provisions of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992. State/UT. Governments are to implement the mandatory provisions of the Act and to endow panchayats with such powers and functions as to enable them to function as units of self government. Government of India reviews the functioning of panchayats from time to time through several measures such as workshops, high level review meetings with State/UT governments, as well as conducting in depth studies of individual States/UTs and conveying the findings to the concerned Governments with a view to facilitating corrective action. Recently on 13.5.1998, the functioning of Panchayats was reviewed in a Conference of State Panchayati Raj Ministers inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Recent Achievements in rural areas

4703. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the details of achievements of his Ministry during the recently concluded 100 days of the present. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): The major achievements of the Ministry during recently concluded 100 days of the present Government includes organisation of a meeting of Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Rural Housing on 13th May, 1998 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to discuss the issues

relating to restructuring of self and wage employment programmes to make the implementation more effective; a meeting of State Secretaries dealing with drinking water in May, 1998 to review the status and the quality of implementation of rural water supply programmes; a workshop organised in May, 1998 on watershed approach for managing degraded lands, a meeting of State Housing Ministers convened in June, 1998 to discuss strategies to tackle housing shortage in rural and urban areas, an expert consultation on decentralised rural development was held on 18th June, 1998 at NIRD, Hyderabad; increase in the Budget of the Ministry from Rs. 9095 CTores in 1997-98 to Rs. 9912 crores during 1998-99 (which comprises substantial increase under accelerated rural water supply from Rs. 1302 crores to Rs. 1628 crores, Ihtegrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Rs. 567 crores to Rs. 728 crores and under lAY from Rs. 1190 crores to Rs. 1600 crores); delegation of powers to State Governments to plan and implement all rural water supply projects; increasing the number of be-neflciaries under Nation Old Age Pension (NOAP) programme in KBK districts of Orissa by additional 50,000 cases; release of central assistance under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in one installment in Jammu & Kashmir due to limited working season, grant of extension of old guidelines under draught prone areas programme (DPAP) for one more year for DODA and Udhampur districts etc.

Strengthening of DRDA

4704. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently several steps have been initiated to improve the quality in planning and implementation of rural .development and poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific measures initiated for strengthening the District Rural Development Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI BABA GOU-DA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of steps have been initiated to improve the quality in planning and implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes such as (a) strengthening of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which are implementing agencies for these programmes, (b) greater participation of Gram Sabhas to ensure transparency and objectivity in the selection procedure and implementation of the programmes, (c) constitution of Monitoring and Vigilance Committees at the State, district and block levels involving public representatives such as MLAs and MPs, NGOs etc. to supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all programmes implemented by this Ministry.

(c) The specific measures for strengthening the District Rural Development Agencies include strengthening pf technical, engineering and accounting Wings at the DRDAs, formation of a District Level Technical Group for preparing of viable projects for DRDAs and strengthening of Management Information System of DRDAs.

Project of CAPART

4705. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: WUI the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Jotal amount spent by the CAPART in various projects in the last financial year through various N.G.O's;

(b) the State-wise break up with details of N.G.O's;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are bogus organisations which ar& getting the benefits; and

(d) if so, the action takeft by Govern ment against them?